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図発明の名称

8~14面体結晶食塩の製造方法

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明細書

1、発明の名称

8~14面体結晶食塩の製造方法

2、特許請求の範囲

食塩溶液中にヘキサメタリン酸ナトリウムを 5 ~ 1 0 0 0 p p m 添加し、常法により結晶を晶出させることを特徴とする 8 ~ 1 4 面体結晶食塩の製造方法。

3、発明の詳細な説明

(産業上の利用分野)

本発明は、流動性の優れた8~14面体結晶を 食塩溶液中から晶出する方法に関する。ここにい う8~14面体結晶とは、第1図に示す食塩の通 常の立面体(6面体)結晶Aから、結晶が成長変 化して得られる14面体結晶Bないし8面体結晶 C(以下、「多面体結晶」という)のことである。

多面体結晶にすることにより、今まで固結問題 のあった精製塩、食卓塩などの高純度食塩におい て、形状が球形に近くなるために食塩粒子相互間 の付着面を減少させることから固結防止が可能と なり、また、流動性が良くなりホッパーなどの操作性が向上するなどの効果が期待できる。 さらには、せんべい、クラッカーなどに食塩を付着させて、使用する食品の商品性を向上させることができる。

(従来の技術)

従来、一般的には加圧、真空蒸発または冷却により立方体結晶の食塩が製造されており、特殊な例として平釜などにより表面蒸発を律速にさせ回転散を制御してトレミー又はフレーク塩結晶を製造していた。

立方体結晶食塩は、機械的磨耗などにより球状 又は14面体に近い形状の結晶を製造することが 可能であるが、このような方法は、労力増や製造 された結晶の不均一性に問題点があった。

8 固体結晶食塩の晶出については、 母被中に尿素、ポリリン酸ナトリウム (テトラ) を添加して晶出すれば製造可能なことが知られている (「晶析工学」、中井 資、 8 6 ~ 8 7 P、 1 9 8 6 年)が、添加する尿素、ポリリン酸ナトリウムは食品

添加物でないので問題点があった。

また、梅漬け製造時に8面体結晶食塩が析出することは知られている(「日本海水学会誌」、第40巻、第1号、28P、1986年)が、これは勿論工業的製造法として利用することはできない。

(発明が解決しようとする問題点)

本発明は、蒸発、冷却などの工業的食塩製造方法において、微量の食品添加物を添加することにより容易に多面体結晶食塩を得ることができる方法を提供しようとするものである。

(問題点を解決するための手段)

本発明は、食塩溶液中に、ヘキサメタリン酸ナトリウムを5~1000ppm添加し、常法により結晶を晶出させることを特徴とする多面体結晶食塩の製造方法を要旨とするものである。

精製塩又は並塩(NaC1を95%以上含有)を溶解した飽和ないし飽和に近い食塩溶液中に、ヘキサメタリン酸ナトリウム($NaPO_3$)。を5~1000 PPm添加する。

3 は攪拌機、4 はポンプ、5 は冷却器、6 は晶析器、7 は晶析器 6 内に添加される結晶種、8 は容器 2 内と冷却器 5 をポンプ 4 を介して結ぶ事管、9 は冷却器 5 と晶析器 6 を結ぶ事管、1 0 は晶析器 6 と容器 2 内を結ぶ事管である。

. このような循環を繰り返すことにより、晶析器 6 内で食塩結晶が、徐々に 8 国体の大きな結晶に へキサメタリン酸ナトリウムは、NaCl以外に、海水を渡縮した、Mg、Ca、K、SO4などのイオン含量の高いかん水に添加し、蒸発缶のスケール付着防止のために使用されている(特公昭51-26903号公報参照)が、本発明方法のように、不純物速度の低い食塩溶液中に、多面体食塩を製造するために添加したことは、従来なかったことである。

ヘキサメタリン酸ナトリウムを添加した食塩溶液中に、さらに微細な100~420μm径の立方体結晶からなる食塩を結晶種として添加することが、本発明多面体結晶を効率的に晶出させるうえで有効である。

晶出方法としては、通常用いられる、例えば冷却晶出法でも、蒸発濃縮法でも差し支えない。これらの晶出方法に用いられる装置の概略を示す第2四及び第3回をもって、晶出方法についてさらに詳しく説明する。

第2図は、冷却晶出法に用いられる装置を示し、 1は恒温加熱水槽、2は食塩溶液を入れる容器、

成長する。循環を繰り返し、晶出の時間を長くすれば、得られる結晶はほぼ完全な8面体結晶となり、短ければ14面体結晶となる。本装置は、パッチ式で運転され、必要な時間経過後、適宜な大きさに成長した多面体結晶を取り出し乾燥する。

第3図は、蒸発波縮法に用いられる装置を示し、11は蒸発伝、12はボンブ、13は加熱管、14はポイラー、15は真空ポンブ、16はコンデンサー、17はドレン槽、18は食はで、19はポイラー14と加熱管13を結ぶ事で、20は蒸発伝11の底溶液をボンブ12及発発の11な変管、21は蒸発伝11でをコンデンサー16を介して結ぶ事で、22は下レン槽17と原でである。

食塩溶液槽18内のヘキサメタリン酸ナトリウム5~1000ppmを添加した食塩溶液をポンプ12で汲み上げて、蒸発缶11内に送り込む。 蒸発缶11内は、絶えず真空ポンプ15によって

(作用)

食塩溶液にヘキサメタリン酸ナトリウムを5~1000ppm添加することにより、食塩結晶の析出時に結晶成長方向の晶癖を変化させることになり、通常6面体となる食塩の結晶が多面体結晶

食塩結晶を晶出した。蒸発缶11内と食塩溶液槽 18内に並塩を溶解した食塩溶液を入れ、ヘキサメタリン酸ナトリウム100ppmを添加した。 蒸発缶11内の食塩溶液には、さらに飽和溶液に なった時点で100~150μmの結晶種7を添加した。 ポンブ12により蒸発缶11内の食塩溶液を循環 し、加熱管13による加熱温度を70℃に設定し、 蒸発缶11内の気圧は真空ボンブ15を運転して 610mmHgとした。蒸発缶11内の液面が絶えず一 定になるように、食塩溶液槽18からボンブ12 によって食塩溶液を補充しながら蒸発濃縮を進め た。

この運転を5時間続けた後、取出管24から食塩結晶を取り出した。食塩結晶は、平均径500μmの8面体結晶であった。

(発明の効果)

本発明は、食品添加物であるヘキサメタリン酸ナトリウムを食塩溶液に微量添加することにより、容易に食塩の多面体結晶を製造することができ、 結晶形の特徴から食塩粒子の固結防止、流動性の に変化するものと思われる。生成した多面体結晶中には添加したヘキサメタリン酸ナトリウムはほとんど含まれないが、仮に含まれたとしてもヘキサメタリン酸ナトリウムは食品添加物であるので、問題はない。

(実施例)

察施例1

第2図に示す装置を用いて、冷却晶出法により 食塩結晶を晶出した。恒温加熱水槽1の温度を6 0℃に設定し、容器2に精製塩を溶かした食塩溶 液を入れ、余分の精製塩とヘキサメタリン酸ナト リウム10 ppmを添加し、装置を運転した。冷 却器5の温度を5℃に設定し、晶析器6には350 ~420μmの結晶種7を添加した食塩溶液を入れ た。

この装置を3時間循環運転することによって、 晶析器6内に平均径600μmの8面体結晶食塩を 得ることができた。

実施例2

第3図に示す装置を用いて、蒸発濃縮法により

優れた食塩を提供でき、このような食塩を食品に付着させて使用すれば、その食品の商品性の向上 も図ることができる。

4、図面の簡単な説明

第1図は、立方体食塩結晶を基にして、本発明 方法によって製造される14面体ないし8面体結 晶食塩を示す斜視図、第2図は、本発明方法を実 施する際に用いられる冷却法による食塩結晶製造 装置の痕略を示すフローシート、第3図は、同恋 発滤箱法による食塩結晶製造装置の標略を示すフローシートである。

1:恒温加热槽 2:容器

3:撹拌機 4:ポンプ

5:冷却器 6:晶析器

7:結晶種 8、9、10:導管

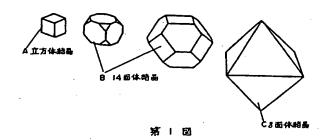
11:蒸発缶12:ボンブ13:加熱管14:ボイラー

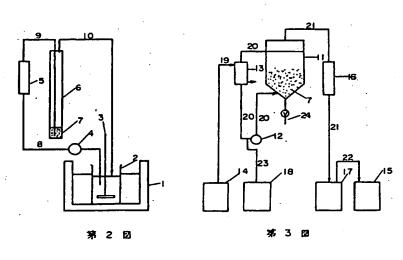
15:真空ポンプ 16:コンデンサー

17:ドレン槽 18:食塩溶液槽

19、20、21、22、23: 導管

特許出願人 日本たばこ産業株式会社





LAID-OPEN PATENT GAZETTE

Laid-open No. 1989-145319 02-145319

Laid-open Date: June 7, 1989

Examination: Requested

Title of the invention: Method for producing octahedral

tetradecahedral common salt crystals

Application No. 1987-299996

Filing Date: November 30, 1987

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Claim:

A method for producing octahedral to tetradecahedral common salt crystals, comprising the steps of adding 5 to 1000 ppm of sodium hexametaphosphate to a common salt solution, and precipitating crystals according to a conventional method.

Detailed description of the invention:

The present invention relates to a method for precipitating octahedral to tetradecahedral crystals excellent in flowability from a common salt solution. The octahedral to tetradecahedral crystals in this case refer to the tetradecahedral crystals B to octahedral crystals C (hereinafter called "polyhedral crystals") obtained due to growth and change from the ordinary cubic (hexahedral) common salt crystals A as shown in Fig. 1.

If hexahedral crystals are transformed into polyhedral crystals, highly pure common salt such as purified common salt or table salt, which has a problem of consolidation, can be prevented from being consolidated since the particles become more spherical to decrease the adhering faces between common salt particles, and furthermore, such an effect as improving the convenience of operating a hopper or the like can be expected because of higher flowability. Moreover, the commercial value of foods having common salt deposited such as rice crackers and other ordinary crackers can also be enhanced.

(Prior art)

Cubic common salt crystals are generally produced with pressurization, vacuum evaporation or cooling. In special cases, for example, a flat oven is rotated with its speed controlled for controlling the surface evaporation rate, to produce hollow pyramidal or flaky salt crystals.

Cubic common salt crystals could be transformed, for example, by mechanical wear, into virtually spherical or virtually

tetradecahedral crystals, but this method has such problems as necessity of labor increase and production of unequal crystals.

It is known that octahedral common salt crystals can be produced if urea and tetrasodium polyphosphate are added to the mother liquor for crystallization ("Shoseki Kogaku = Crystallization Engineering," Toshi Nakai, pages, 86-87, 1986), but this method has a problem that the urea and sodium polyphosphate to be added are not food additives.

It is also known that when pickled umes (Japanese apricots) are produced, octahedral common salt crystals are precipitated ("The Japanese Society of Sea Water Science Journal," Vol. 40, No. 1, page 28, 1986), but this method cannot of course be used as an industrial production method.

(Problem to be solved by the invention)

This invention provides an industrial method for easily obtaining polyhedral common salt crystals by adding a slight amount of a food additive.

(Means for solving the problem)

The gist of this invention is a method for producing octahedral to tetradecahedral common salt crystals, comprising the steps of adding 5 to 1000 ppm of sodium hexametaphosphate to a common salt solution, and precipitating crystals according to a conventional method.

Sodium hexametaphosphate (NaPO3) 6 is added by 5 to 1000 ppm to a saturated or virtually saturated common salt solution with purified common salt or ordinary salt (containing 95% or more of

NaCl) dissolved.

Sodium hexametaphosphate is added not only to NaCl but also to brine with high ion contents of Mg, Ca, K, SO₄ and so on obtained by concentrating seawater, for preventing the scale deposition on an evaporator (see JP51-26903B). However, sodium hexametaphosphate has never been added to a common salt solution with a low impurity concentration, for producing polyhedral common salt crystals as in the method of this invention.

Further adding fine cubic common salt crystals with a size of 100 to 420 µm as crystal seeds to a common salt solution containing sodium hexametaphosphate is effective for efficiently precipitating polyhedral common salt crystals.

For crystallization, a usually used method such as cooling crystallization or evaporative concentration can be used. These crystallization methods are described below in detail in reference to Figs. 2 and 3 showing apparatuses used for those methods.

Fig. 2 shows an apparatus used for the cooling crystallization method. Symbol 1 denotes a constant temperature heating water tank; 2, a vessel containing a common salt solution; 3, a stirrer; 4, a pump; 5, a cooler; 6, a crystallizer; 7, crystal seeds to be added into the crystallizer 6; 8, a conduit pipe for connecting the inside of the vessel 2 with the cooling device 5 through the pump 4; 9, a conduit pipe for connecting the cooler 5 with the crystallizer; and 10, a conduit pipe for connecting the crystallizer 6 with the inside of the vessel 2.

A purified common salt or ordinary common salt solution is

placed in the vessel 2 installed in the constant temperature heating water tank 1, and further purified common salt or ordinary common salt is added. Then, 5 to 1000 ppm of sodium hexametaphosphate is added, and the mixture is stirred using the stirrer 3. The saturated common salt solution in the vessel 2 is fed to the cooler 5 by the pump 4 through the conduit pipe 8. The cooled and supersaturated common salt solution is fed through the conduit pipe 9 into the crystallizer 6. The pre-arranged common salt crystal seeds 7 are supplied to the supersaturated common salt solution in the crystallizer 6. In the crystallizer 6, crystals grow around the crystal seeds 7 into large tetradecahedral to octahedral crystals. The supernatant solution in the crystallizer 6 overflows and is returned through the conduit pipe 10 to the vessel 2.

This circulation is repeated, to let the common salt crystals in the crystallizer 6 gradually grow into large octahedral crystals. If the circulation is repeated to make the crystallization time just about longer, the obtained crystals become almost, perfect octahedral crystals, and if the time is short, tetradecahedral crystals are produced. This apparatus is operated for batch production, and after lapse of necessary time, the polyhedral crystals growing into an adequate size are taken out and dried.

Fig. 3 shows an apparatus used for the evaporative concentration method. Symbol 11 denotes an evaporator; 12, a pump; 13, a heating pipe; 14, a boiler; 15, a vacuum pump; 16, a condenser; 17, a drain tank; 18, a common salt solution tank; 19, a conduit pipe for connecting the boiler 14 with the heating pipe 13; 20,

a conduit pipe for circulating the common salt solution in the evaporator 11 through the pump 12 and the heating pipe 13; 21, a conduit pipe for connecting the top of the evaporator 11 with the drain tank 17 through the condenser 16; 22, a conduit pipe for connecting the drain tank 17 with the vacuum pump 15; and 24, a delivery pipe having a cock installed at the bottom of the evaporator 11.

The common salt solution containing 5 to 1000 ppm of sodium hexametaphosphate in the common salt solution tank 18 is fed into the evaporator 11 by the pump 12. Since the atmosphere in the evaporator 11 is kept reduced in pressure by the vacuum pump 15, the common salt solution heated by the heating pipe 13 is boiled in the evaporator 11 at a temperature lower than that at the atmospheric pressure. The vapor generated by boiling is discharged from the conduit pipe 21, and condensed in the condenser 16, being collected in the drain tank 17. Crystal seeds 7 are added into the evaporator 11, and the solution heated by the heating pipe 13 is circulated for evaporative concentration, causing crystals to grow around the crystal seeds 7 into larger tetradecahedral to octahedral crystals. Since the common salt solution in the evaporator 11 is decreased due to evaporation, an additional common salt solution is supplied from the common salt solution tank 18 to make up for the shortage. If the crystallization time is longer, the obtained crystals become almost, perfect octahedral crystals, and if it is short, tetradecahedral crystals are produced. This apparatus is also operated for batch production, and after lapse of necessary

time, the polyhedral crystals growing into an adequate size are taken out of the delivery pipe 24, and dried.

(Action)

Ιť considered that 5 to 1000 ppmof hexametaphosphate added to a common salt solution changes the crystal habit in the crystal growth direction when the common salt crystals are precipitated, to change the common salt crystals usually destined to be hexahedral crystals into polyhedral crystals. The produced polyhedral crystals little contain the added sodium hexametaphosphate, but even if they should contain sodium hexametaphosphate, there is problem since no sodium hexametaphosphate is a food additive.

(Examples)

Example 1

The apparatus shown in Fig. 2 was used to precipitate common salt crystals according to the cooling crystallization method. The temperature of the constant temperature heating water tank 1 was set at 60°C, and a common salt solution with purified common salt dissolved in it was fed into the vessel 2, and extra purified common salt and 10 ppm of sodium hexametaphosphate were added. The operation of the apparatus was started. The temperature of the cooler 5 was set at 5°C, and a common salt solution containing crystal seeds 7 of 350 to 420 μ m was fed into the crystallizer 6.

The apparatus was operated for 3 hours for circulation, and octahedral common salt crystals with an average size of 600 μm could

be obtained in the crystallizer 6.

Example 2

The apparatus shown in Fig. 3 was used to precipitate common salt crystals according to the evaporative concentration method. A common salt solution with ordinary common salt dissolved in it was fed into the evaporator 11 and the common salt solution tank 18, and 100 ppm of sodium hexametaphosphate was added. When the common salt solution in the evaporator 11 became a saturated solution, crystal seeds 7 of 100 to 150 µm were added to the saturated solution. The pump 12 was operated to circulate the common salt solution in the evaporator 11. The heating temperature by the heating pipe 13 was set at 70°C, and the gas pressure in the evaporator 11 was set at 610 mm Hg by operating the vacuum pump 15. An additional common salt solution was supplied from the common salt solution tank 18 using the pump 12, to keep the liquid level in the evaporator 11 constant, while the evaporative concentration being was continued.

The operation was continued for 5 hours, and common salt crystals were taken out of the delivery pipe 24. The common salt crystals were octahedral crystals with an average size of 500 μm . (Effect of the invention)

In this invention, since a slight amount of sodium hexametaphosphate used as a food additive is added to a common salt solution, polyhedral common salt crystals can be easily produced. Because of the characteristic crystal form, the consolidation of

common salt particles can be prevented, and common salt with excellent flowability can be presented. If the common salt is deposited on food, the commercial value of the food can be enhanced.

Brief description of the drawings:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing tetradecahedral common salt crystals and an octahedral common salt crystal produced based on cubic common salt crystals according to the method of this invention. Fig. 2 is a flow sheet schematically showing a common salt crystal producing apparatus according to the cooling method used for carrying out the method of this invention. Fig. 3 is a flow sheet schematically showing a common salt crystal producing apparatus according to the evaporative concentration method used for carrying out the method of this invention.

1 ... constant temperature heating tank 2 ... vessel 3 ... stirrer
4 ... pump 5 ... cooler 6 ... crystallizer 7 ... crystal seeds 8,
9, 10 ... conduit pipe 11 ... evaporator 12 ... pump 13 ... heating
pipe 14 ... boiler 15 ... vacuum pump 16 ... condenser 17 ... drain
tank 18 ... common salt solution tank 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 ... conduit
pipe 24 ... delivery pipe

A: Cubic crystal B: Tetradecahedral crystal

C: Octahedral crystal

